



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Black Caucus

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES: February 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Rob Hullum, 414-278-4285

Board of Supervisors to Celebrate Black History Month Virtually on February 4

Milwaukee – The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will celebrate Black History Month during its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 4 at 9:30 a.m.

The program will include a welcome and introduction from Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson, the singing of the [Black National Anthem “Lift Every Voice and Sing”](#) by Rebecca Burrell, a libation from State Representative Supreme Moore Omokunde and a prayer by Supervisor Russell Antonio Goodwin, Sr.

[Office on African American Affairs](#) Executive Director Jeff Roman and Former County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs will deliver remarks on this year’s program theme: [“The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity.”](#)

[Dream Team United MKE](#), a Milwaukee-based collective that organizes food, clothing and household item drives for those in need, will be presented with a County Board citation for their work.

The County Board’s Black Caucus will also unveil its updated “Shoulders We Stand On” poster which recognizes all current African American Supervisors and honors African Americans that have previously served on the County Board.

Members of the media and public are able to tune into the program online via the [County Legislative Information Center](#) (CLIC).

WHEN: Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: County Legislative Information Center (CLIC) [Website](#)

WHAT: County Board Black History Month Program

WHO: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, State Representative Supreme Moore Omokunde, Office of African American Affairs Executive Director Jeff Roman, Former County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs, Rebecca Burrell

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Black History Month 2021 County Board Presentation

February 4, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.



MARCELIA NICHOLSON
Chairwoman
County Supervisor - District 5



SEQUANNA TAYLOR
1st Vice Chairwoman
County Supervisor - District 2



WILLIE JOHNSON, JR.
County Supervisor
District 13



FELESIA A. MARTIN
County Supervisor
District 7



**RUSSELL ANTONIO
GOODWIN, SR.**
County Supervisor - District 18

Program

Welcome & Introduction

Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson

Black National Anthem

Rebecca Burrell

Libation

Supreme Moore Omokunde

State Representative & Former County Supervisor

Guest Speaker

Director Jeff Roman

Office on African American Affairs

Guest Speaker

Elizabeth Coggs

Former County Supervisor

Recognition Citation

Dream Team United MKE

Prayer

Reverend Russell Antonio Goodwin, Sr.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

The Black National Anthem (1900)

Words: *James Weldon Johnson*

Music: *John Rosamond Johnson*

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

2021 Black History Theme:

THE BLACK FAMILY

Representation, Identity, and Diversity

The Black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines – history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time. The Black family knows no single location, since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents. Not only are individual Black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the Black family at large. While the role of the Black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race, its complexity as the “foundation” of African American life and history can be seen in numerous debates over how to represent its meaning and typicality from a historical perspective – as slave or free, as patriarchal or matriarchal/ matrifocal, as single-headed or dual-headed household, as extended or nuclear, as fictive kin or blood lineage, as legal or common law, and as Black or interracial, etc. Variation appears, as well, in discussions on the nature and impact of parenting, childhood, marriage, gender norms, sexuality, and incarceration. The family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.